



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**10-TIME CONVICTED FELON PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a 10-time convicted felon pleaded guilty today to illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition. The guilty plea, Graves said, is the result of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Kevin D. Hilke, 40, of Cairo, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Hilke** admitted that he was in possession of a Lorcin .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol and one live round of Smith and Wesson .32-caliber ammunition on Jan. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Hilke** admitted that he has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery, a 1992 criminal felony conviction for burglary, a 1992 criminal felony conviction for involuntary manslaughter, two 1989 criminal felony convictions for driving while intoxicated, one 1989 criminal felony conviction for leaving the scene of an accident, a 1984 criminal felony conviction for forgery, two 1982 criminal felony convictions for assault and one 1982 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

Hilke was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 27, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Independence, Mo., Police Department.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow